

ORANGE CULTURE ON THE EAST COAST.

Improvements Made Along the Indian River Since the Freeze.

During the past year there has been an activity in the cultivation of orange groves over the entire length of the East Coast of Florida, unknown since the great freeze of '94-95. On the upper portion of the East Coast the groves suffered to some extent, but much less than in the interior of the state. The freeze of '94-95 cut back the old groves, and, in some instances, killed young trees. But there is, and always has been, an immunity from killing frosts on the east coast, unknown in any other section of the state. While the trees were damaged more or less in the more northern section, in the lower east coast, say from Sebastian south, orange trees have never been damaged by freeze. The most northern grove along the east coast is the fifty acre grove belonging to the Wetumpka Fruit company at Hastings. In this grove, although young at the time of the great freeze, scarcely a tree was killed to the ground. The trees have made a most astonishing growth during the past summer, came through the winter without any damage and many of the trees are now loaded with fruit. The trees have not been protected either by shed or tent. Mr. George W. Leonard, the manager of this company's interests, said to the writer: "We are greatly encouraged with the condition of our grove. It is one of the most beautiful sights I ever saw, the trees have made a wonderful growth, the foliage is dark, and the trees are in perfect health."

While there have been but few young trees planted in that section during the past year, the growers are much encouraged, which is resulting in greater care of the trees. At San Mateo there will be a considerable shipment of fruit this season. The old groves are in splendid condition while the young trees are coming on in a way which surprises the owners. The lands in and about San Mateo, adjacent to the historic St. Johns river, are especially adapted to growing orange trees, and the growers are confidently looking forward to the time when the old-time shipments will be made from that point. Coming south we found the growers, as a rule carefully looking after their trees. At New Smyrna, Mr. Washington Conner, of New York city, is clearing a forty acre tract of hammock land, which he will plant in the most approved varieties of oranges next spring. Mr. Conner already has quite an acreage of old grove. The rapid growth of these trees and their great recuperative powers has so encouraged Mr. Conner that he will extend his grove as above stated. Others in this fertile section are planting smaller areas.

The lands both hammock and pine, west and along the river bank at New Smyrna are adapted to growing citrus fruits of the best quality, and the present indications are that during the coming year there will be a much larger acreage planted. New Smyrna and vicinity was the first or among the first settlements in Florida, believed by many to be prior to the settlement of St. Augustine. There is one thing sure, the groves in the Turnbull hammock have long been noted for the superior quality of fruit, and quantity grown. At Hawks Park, a few miles south of New Smyrna, Mr. W. S. Hart has a grove of a few acres covered with half shade which has made a surprising growth, and will soon be in full bearing. The trees in that vicinity which are not covered have made, and are making, a splendid growth, and there is every prospect of a revival of the orange industry. There is perhaps no section of the Indian river country where so much confidence is shown in the orange industry as at Titusville and vicinity. Last year there were a few hundred boxes of fruit shipped from this section. This year there will be many thousands. Mr. E. L. Brady, a conservative and careful orange planter, estimates the shipments at 5,000 boxes. Others, who are more sanguine, estimate 7,000. There is probably no section where the trees have made such a rapid development as through the Indian river section from Titusville to Rockledge.

At Titusville the groves both on the hammock and pine lands, are fast assuming their old-time appearance, and the growers are weeding out all the diseased trees and replanting them with healthful buds. In the vicinity of Mims, on the pine lands, the groves are doing exceptionally well and this year the growers will be repaid for their patience and stick-to-itiveness, by sending forward many boxes of golden fruit. Mr. E. L. Brady said to the writer, "You can not form any adequate opinion of the groves in our vicinity unless you visit them. Although I live at Titusville and have a splendid grove I had no idea of the number and extent of the really fine groves which are rapidly assuming their old-time appearance, and are this year well loaded with fruit, until I spent a day driving through them. Of course there were many which I did not have time to visit, but since I have made careful inquiry and I have but one report, and that is that the orange trees throughout this entire section have made growth during the last year that has never been equaled, even in modern times. If anyone had told me that in all probability there would be shipped from the Titusville district at least 5,000 boxes of fruit this season, I should have been inclined to think they were mistaken or drawing largely on their imagination, but since I spent a day in investigating I am satisfied

that the shipments will reach easily 5,000 boxes. The growers are greatly encouraged and are replacing any tree that does not grow rapidly, with strong, new healthy buds. There is every indication of the speedy return of the old prosperous times when thousands of oranges went forward yearly. My own grove has made a most remarkable growth, and the amount of bearing wood put on last summer was immense, and the prospect is much heavier growth will be put on this year, which will double the bearing capacity of my grove next year. The grove of Mr. William Brown will hold at least 1,500 boxes of fruit this season. The Titusville orange growers are strictly in it." The same conditions exist at City Point and Faustina. Mr. Geo. Chester, a well known and conservative orange grower at City Point, estimates the yield this season at 5,000 boxes. The growers are greatly encouraged over the outlook, and are giving their trees better care than since the cold of '94-95. Unhealthy trees are being replaced by new, healthy buds, and there is every reason to believe that returning prosperity has come, and that soon these places will be sending forward their old-time amount of fruit. Rockledge growers are in high glee over their prospects. Their groves came through the winter without damage. The extremely heavy growth of bearing wood last summer makes it possible that at least 15,000 boxes of fruit will be shipped this season. Hon. H. S. Williams, one of the most conservative of men, says in a letter to the writer under date of May 6th: "In my judgment the outlook is now good for 15,000 boxes of oranges in the Rockledge hammock." Others who are more sanguine, and are making no calculations on "ill winds," place the yield at 20,000 boxes. The healthful condition of the trees and the amount of bearing wood which will be put on this season indicates that the yield will be double next season. What is true in this regard of the Rockledge hammock, is true of the City Point and Titusville districts. At Rockledge many new trees have been planted, some of the growers planting fresh, healthy buds between each old tree in their groves and taking out all trees that have or are not making a satisfactory growth. Mr. Geo. Chester estimates the output of oranges from Merritts Island this season at 5,000 boxes. The planting of new trees here has kept abreast of the times and the growers are giving their trees the best of care, which means a rapid development and a quick return to the old-time shipments.

There has been considerable tree planting on the spruce pine and hickory ridges lying on either side of the track of the Florida East Coast railway south of Rockledge. We have most favorable reports from all this section in regard to the growth of citrus trees and the remarkably healthful condition of the trees. At St. Lucie, Hon. C. T. McCarty has within the last year planted out many hundred orange trees on the rich hickory ridges on the west side of the track of the Florida East Coast railway, also on his lands at Ankona. In conversation with him, Mr. McCarty said: "I have never seen trees make a more rapid and satisfactory growth than during the past summer. Our orange trees have never been damaged by cold, and there is no section of the state where trees bear heavier crops of fruit, or of a better quality. My young groves are certainly things of beauty, and fully demonstrate what can be accomplished in a few short years in citrus tree growing by careful and intelligent culture." There is no question but within a few short years these hickory and spruce pine ridges will be one solid orange grove, which will yield their owners large returns on their investments. The Eden and Jensen district, which has hitherto been devoted almost exclusively to the growing of pineapples, is now becoming an orange growing district. During the last year there has been many hundred citrus trees planted, and the good work is but just commenced. The groves of Mrs. Curtis, proprietor of the Netherby, and that of Mr. Merwin are loaded with fruit. Last year we visited these places and we never remember of having seen orange trees more heavily loaded with fruit and of a better quality. The trees are again loaded down with the fruit almost to the breaking point.

New Military Company.

The Lake Worth Rifles is the name of a new military company organized at West Palm Beach last week, officers as follows: J. E. Chambers, captain; H. B. Yarbrough, first lieutenant; Ed. A. Graham, second lieutenant. The company numbers thirty-five. The atrocities of the Chinese Boxers may be responsible for this sudden uprising, though it is possible that the state encampment, just closed at St. Augustine, may have quickened the military spirit.

No Right To Ugliness.

The woman who is lovely in face, form and temper will always have friends, but one who would be attractive must keep her health. If she is weak, sickly and all run down she will be nervous and irritable. If she has constipation or kidney trouble her impure blood will cause pimples, blotches, skin eruptions and a wretched complexion. Electric Bitters is the best medicine in the world to regulate stomach, liver and kidneys and to purify the blood. It gives strong nerves, bright eyes, smooth, velvety skin, rich complexion. It will make a good looking, charming woman of a run-down invalid. Only 50 cents at B. R. Wilson & Son's drug store.

NOTICE OF ELECTION.

Whereas, The legislature of 1899, under the constitution of 1885, of the state of Florida, did pass four joint resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution of the state of Florida, and the same were agreed to by a vote of three-fifths of all the members elected to each house; that the vote on said joint resolutions were entered upon their respective journals, with the yeas and nays thereon, and they did determine and direct that the said joint resolutions be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November, 1900.

Now, therefore, I, Jno. L. Crawford, secretary of state, of the state of Florida, do hereby give notice that a

GENERAL ELECTION

will be held in each county in Florida on Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November, A. D. 1900, the said Tuesday being the

SIXTH DAY OF NOVEMBER,

for the ratification or rejection of the said joint resolutions proposing amendments to the constitution of the state of Florida, viz:

Article XV.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and the same is hereby agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election A. D. 1900 for ratification or rejection:

Section 4, Article VII, of the constitution of the state of Florida is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 4. Where any senatorial district is composed of two or more counties, the counties of which such district consists shall not be entirely separated by any county belonging to another district. Any new county that may be created shall be entitled to one member in the house of representatives, in excess of the limit prescribed in section 2 of this article until the apportionment following next thereafter, and shall be assigned when created to one of the adjoining senatorial districts as shall be determined by the legislature.

Article XVI.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and is hereby agreed to, and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, A. D. 1900, for ratification or rejection:

Section 25 of Article III of said constitution be and is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 25. The legislature shall provide by general law for incorporating such educational, agricultural, mechanical, mining, transportation, mercantile and other useful companies or associations as may be deemed necessary; but it shall not pass any special law on any such subject, and any such special law shall be of no effect; provided, however, that nothing herein shall preclude special legislation as to a university or the public schools, or as to a ship canal across the state.

Article XVII.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and the same is hereby agreed to, and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November, A. D. 1900, for ratification or rejection:

Section 5 of Article VIII of the constitution shall be and is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Section 5. Immediately upon the ratification of this amendment the county commissioners of the several counties of this state shall divide their respective counties into five commissioner's districts, to be numbered respectively from one to five, inclusive, and each district shall be, as nearly as possible, equal in proportion to population, and thereafter there shall be in each of such districts a county commissioner who shall be elected by the qualified electors of said county at the time and place of voting for other county officers, and shall hold his office for two years. The powers, duties and compensation of such county commissioners shall be prescribed by law; provided, that nothing herein shall effect the terms of commissioners holding office at the time of such division; provided, further, that all vacancies occurring by limitations of terms, or from death, resignation, or otherwise, before the election of 1902, shall be filled by appointment by the governor as now provided by law.

Article XVIII.

That the following amendment to the constitution of the state of Florida be and the same is hereby agreed to, and shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November, A. D. 1900, for ratification or rejection:

Section 12 of Article XVI of the constitution of the state of Florida is amended to read as follows:

Section 12. The present seal of the state shall remain the seal of the state of Florida. The state flag shall be of the following proportions and description: Depth to be three-fourths length of fly. The seal of the state of diameter one-third the fly, in the center of a white ground. Red bars, in width one-eighth the length of fly extending from each corner toward the center to the outer rim of the seal.

The votes cast in compliance with said proposed amendments, and the canvass, declarations and returns thereof, shall be subjected to the same regulations and restrictions as are provided by law for general elections in the state of Florida.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the great seal of the state of Florida, at Tallahassee, the capital, this, the first day of August, A. D. 1900.

JOHN L. CRAWFORD,
Secretary of State.

To J. P. BROWN, Sheriff Brevard County.

CASTORIA.

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

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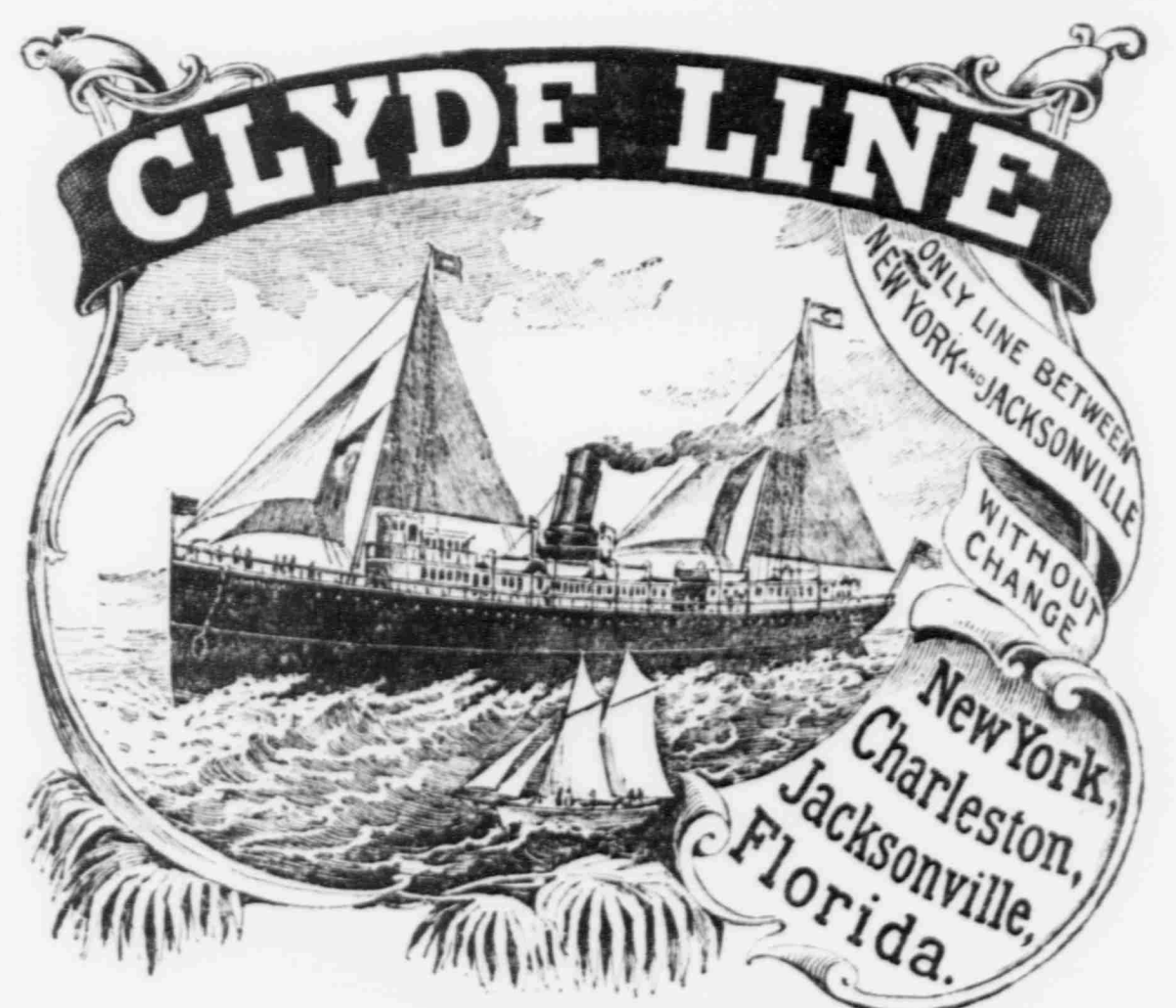
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